DIKU – 40 years!

Does that make DIKU newborn, child, adolescent, adult, aging, old, senile, or deceased?

Carsten Gomard, DIKU PhD and Netcompany co-founder and CEO

Copenhagen, September 30th, 2010
Each major transition made me realize how little I had previously understood.

- **DIKU (1984-1992)**: Fundamentals and basic research
- **Accenture & ATKearney (1993-1999)**: IT and management consulting with US/international flavor
- **Netcompany (2000-)**: From start-up to local challenger

Mother
Academic advances have contributed massively to productivity in the IT industry

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<th>Industry may not embrace all the ideas of the scholars, but the number of successful ideas is endless ...</th>
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<td>type systems</td>
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<td>high-level languages</td>
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<td>object orientation</td>
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<td>modular design</td>
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<td>enterprise architecture</td>
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<td>Internet technology</td>
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<td>virtual machines</td>
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Despite many advances, the IT industry is still hopelessly immature …

A *mature* industry is characterized by

• Products and services are stable
• Delivery is predictable and controlled
• The rules of the game don’t change
• Few opportunities to create wealth
• No growth
• No role for smaller companies

This description fits the IT industry very, very badly.

Fortunately.
In fact something as “simple” as delivering an agreed and well-defined product or service turns out not to be so simple after all…

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The industry’s inability to deliver projects as planned is the source of many sleepless nights for managers and employees, and for suppliers and customers.
Our ability to deliver is the key to our record client satisfaction, strong financials and happy colleagues.

The 3rd best IT work environment in Denmark.
The application of IT in real life has received massive attention

**Research/application focus**

- **Applications**
  - **Scope of skills**
    - Narrow
    - Wide

**Foundations/principles**

- **DIKU**: 22
- **DTU/IMM**: Focus on applications. Concrete problems
- **CBS/CAICT**: co-creating value through partnerships
- **ITU**: Arts, Science, Business

*ITU: “Arts, Science, Business”*
We are grateful for all the competent graduates that you produce for us, .... but we could use some more.
Looking forward to DIKUs 50th anniversary (if I’m invited) I’ll challenge the 40 year adolescent to …

• Triple in faculty size (and graduate production)

• Hold on to the highest academic standards of DIKU’s impressive track record

• Continue to base research and teaching activity on rock solid fundamentals

• Use resources as effectively as the best industry benchmarks
Happy birthday, old friend!